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HONGKONG, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1878.

二月廿九

年四十二

英一千九百四十六

[PRICE 2d PER MONTH.]

SHIPPING.

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

ARRIVALS.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

DEPARTURES.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

CLEARANCES.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

SEPTEMBER 23RD.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

ARTICLES.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

French bark, for Newchawng.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

Athena, British bark, for New York.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

Glacis, Spanish steamer, for Manila.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

London.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

Paul Marie, French bark, for Newchawng.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

S. Franklin, American schooner, for Cape of Good Hope.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

Belle Rigit, British ship, for London.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

DEPARTURES.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

September 22, Alverton, British str., for Shanghai.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

September 23, HELEN, German bark, for Newchawng.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

September 23, ROSE WELT, Amer. ship, for Vancouver's Island.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

September 23, JOSEPHUS, American ship, for San Francisco.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

September 23, MOSS GLEN, British bark, for London.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

September 23, HYLTON CASTLE, British bk., for Chaffeo.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

September 23, YOTTUNG, British steamer, for Swatow.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

September 23, ORTSA, British steamer, for Shanghai.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

September 23, ARGENTINO, British str., for Singapore and London.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

September 23, GLOUCESTER, British str., for Manila.

NOTICE.

BANKS.

AUCTIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

INTIMATIONS.

September 23, CHINA, British str., for Manila.

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INTIMATIONS.

September 23, CHINA, British str., for Manila.

NOTICE.

BANK

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—17

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Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1878.

This report made by Mr. Nicolson on the opium trade, published in the *London and China Express* of the 16th ultimo, was probably it was not the intention of the Indian Government. The object of the report is clearly to show the position occupied by the native drug in the opium market in China, and the degree to which it affects or is likely to affect the sale of the Indian product. Mr. Nicolson, who is one of the Secretaries of Legation at Peking, should be able to command good information on the subject, but his facts are nevertheless mainly derived from Consular reports and those of the various Commissioners of Customs. Most of the facts he has gleaned from these sources have already appeared in our columns, and have been commented upon. Out of the accumulated evidence of the subject, Mr. Nicolson deduces the following conclusions:—1. That within the last few years the production of native opium has increased and is increasing. 2. That the poppy is cultivated in spite of prohibitory governmental edicts, and in most cases with the connivance of the authorities. 3. That the cultivation is likely to be still further extended, owing to the large profits which can be made. 4. That the native can easily undersell the foreign drug in the market. 5. That the chief, and apparently the sole, advantage possessed by the Indians over the native article lies in its superior quality.

The first of these conclusions is so obvious that no one would, we imagine, dream of disputing it. In some districts of Chihli and Shantung, where large tracts have been given up to poppy cultivation hitherto, there will, consequent on the famine which has desolated those provinces, be a very poor crop next season, but as a general rule there will, we think, be no falling off in the native production elsewhere. In Shing-king, where the Authorities have interfered with the cultivation of the poppy, on account of the diminution in the revenue caused by the use of the native drug, the next crops will probably be lighter, but official prohibitions rarely have permanent effect, and, as a rule, soon become dead letters. This circumstance, indeed, forms Mr. Nicolson's second conclusion, the soundness of which it would be folly to question. That gentlemen are of opinion, thirdly, that the growth of the poppy plant will be still further extended, on account of the large profits accrued from it. This may be correct up to a certain point, but there will be a limit to its extension. This limit will be reached when the Chinese have to import grain to a large extent. The assertion that the native grower can easily undersell the foreign drug in the market is, of course, not sustainable, though the Indian drug might be greatly reduced in price if the Government of that country cared to lower the duties on it. In any case, however, the native drug

can always be sold at a considerably lower rate than the Indian opium, at the expense of raising it smaller, the cost of freight and packing is saved, and lighter duties are imposed upon it. The Indian drug, at the present time, certainly does, Mr. Nicolson states, depend upon its vastly superior quality and flavour for its command of the Chinese market. The native product is scarcely ever smoked alone; it is seldom tolerable to any taste, and it has to be mixed with the Indian drug before it can be used at all. The import of Indian opium for 1877 was slightly larger than that for any previous twelve months in the decade, and, though considerable fluctuations in the import have occurred, it has never declined to such an extent as to excite any serious alarm as to the continuance of the demand. The Imperial edicts against the practice of opium smoking and the cultivation of the poppy are not likely to disturb the equanimity of the opium grower in China. The Authorities of the various provinces, following the example of those of Kwang-tung, may perhaps give a little keener attention to the trade with the object of making more out of it; but clearly there are few Chinese officials who have either the will or the power to suppress the opium traffic. They have no particular wish to go out of their way to put down a remunerative traffic, and if they had, they would require some better administrative machinery than they have at present before the law could be properly executed.

We are informed by the Agents (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) that the steamship *Moray* left Singapore for this port on Saturday, the 20th instant.

We hear that the guns mounted at the recently captured batteries, being marine ordnance, are to be taken into store and replaced by guns now on the way out from home.

The Agents (Messrs. Butterfield and Swire) inform us that the O. S. S. Company's steamer *Sarpedon*, from Liverpool, left Singapore for Hongkong yesterday morning.

A STORY FROM KASHGAR.

Hira Mulla Rahmat, of Kashgar, who married at Peshawar, is, on his way to Mecca, told what he knows about events in Kashgar. The following is his story:—In the month of January last, Hira Mulla, the Badiyal of Kashgar, collected a large army to fight the Chinese. He had near the town of Balian, and his army then recognized Hukin Khan, Torki, as his successor. The militia in Kashgar the meantime appointed Bog Kai Bog, Yacoo's oldest son, as their Badiyal according to Yacoo's will. Hukin Khan, and the army which had been raised to assist him, were defeated. A battle was fought between Kai Bog and Hukin Khan on the 26th, and 27th of Rajab (24th and 25th, 1877), and Hukin Khan was defeated. Many of the soldiers belonging to Hukin Khan's force fell in the battle, and many others were slain, and some were drowned, owing to the fact that the town was built on a bed of quicksand. The Bog Kai Bog was sent to a small town and returned to Kashgar. In the meantime, Hukin Beg, the Governor of Khotan, rebelled, and Kai Bog sent him in the field, and captured Khotan. The Beg was scarcely a week at that place, when he heard that the Chinese had arrived at Aksu and had taken it. Hukin Beg, who had been captured, attacked Yengi Shahr, the capital, and capturing it shut himself up there. The town was then besieged by the Governor of Kashgar, and the siege continued for 50 days. Then Kai Beg came up, and forcing his entry into the town, took possession of it, and destroyed the fort. But on the 10th of Zulhij (16th of December) the army of Aksu came up, and Kai Beg, who had been encouraged by the Chinese, fled. The Chinese then captured Aksu, and Kai Beg fled to Kashgar. The Chinese then advanced to the northern frontier of Kashgar, and were received by the Emperor of China, who had been sent to meet them.

The chief point of interest in gunnery subjects at the present time is the growing belief that the object of the gun is to inflict damage, and not to inflict death. The British gunners have been educated to this, and the introduction of breech-loading, although it requires more time to load, is more rapid, and, when once loaded, is more effective. The change of opinion which is understood to have occurred is independent of the usual considerations with respect to the heavy naval guns, but it is well known that the power of gunnery has been increased by the introduction of breech-loading, and that the gunners have been educated to load their guns more rapidly, and to use them more effectively. 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EXTRACTS.

THE TWO GLASSES.

There sat two glasses filled to the brim.

On a rich man's table, rise to him,
One was ruddy and red as blood,
And one was clear as the crystal flood.
Said the glass of wine to the paster brother,
"Let us tell the tales of the past to each other;
I can tell of banquet and revel and mirth;
And the proudest and grandest souls on earth
Fall under my torch as though struck by light.
When I was king, for I rule in night,
From the heads of kings I have torn the crown.
From the last of fame I have burst my bond;
I have blazoned many a honoured name,
Have taken viciss and given glories;
I have tempted the youth with a spic, a taste,
That has made his future a barren waste.
For greater than king am I.
Or than any army beneath the sky.
I have made the arm of the driver fall,
And sent the trait from the iron mail;
I have made good ships go down to sea,
And the shrills of the lost were stilled to me;
For they said, "Behold how great you are!"
Fate, strength, wealth, genius before you fall,
And your might and power are over all."
Ho! ho! brother," laughed the wine.

"Can you boast of deeds so great as mine?"
Said the water glass, "I cannot boast;
Of a king enthroned on a murdered host;
But I can tell of a host avenged.
By my crystal drops made light and glad,
Of thine I've quenched and broken I've leaved;
Of hands I have sooted and souls I have saved;
I have leaved through the valley, dashed down the mountain,
Plowed in the river and played in the fountain.

Slept in the sunshines and dropped from the sky,
And everywhere gilded the landscape and eye.
I have cast the hot forehead of fever and pain;
I have made the parched meadows grow fertile with grain;

Can tell of the powerful wheel of the mill,
That ground out the flour and tamed at my will;
I have told of meadow lands debased by you.
That I have lifted and chained a man.
I cheer, I help, I strengthen and aid,
I gladden the heart of man and maid;
I set the chained wine-captive free,
And all are better for knowing me.
These are the tales they told each other,
The glass of wine and paster brother,
As they sat together linked to the brim,
Or the rich man a table, rise to him.

THE SOCIAL ETHICS OF THE STAGE.

The amanuensis of a profligate always be indicative of a moral and mental altitude. The rough and brutal sports of a century ago could never have existed in a cultivated and refined society. Even so little of Mr. Matthew Arnold's "sweetness and light" would have killed bull-baiting, badger-drawing, and cock-slaying. It is not quite settled now that some of our sports are altogether humane, but wherever they are inhuman it may be quite safely admitted that they reflect a certain brutality in themselves. It is not thinkable that "Hamlet" should play to a congregation of fools, or that our now-fangled "musical absurdities" should attract audiences of philosophers. Whatever our amanuensis are, and in whatsoever fashion our professional amanuensis strive to "divest us, we owe their grossness or their refinement, their vulgarity or elegance, chiefly to ourselves. To condemn the stage is to condemn the society in which it flourishes." To proclaim the stage noble is to praise the age. There are, and nearly always have been, instances in the history of the stage where some great actor, by the force of his own genius, has improved the taste of the populace. But the majority of actors are not gifted with genius, or blessed more than other men with high aspirations and great force of will; and it follows that, since they must please to live, they live to please, surrendering themselves to the guiding taste of the people for whom they cater. It is easy enough, of course, to take either a pessimist or an optimist view of the matter, but it is somewhat difficult to discuss it without falling into cast on one side of the other. There are few things more vexing to the candor intellect than the talk about the enabling influence of the stage.

AMERICAN ATTENTION TO LADIES.

Making some inquiries of the steward, he had said to me, "You are, I presume, madam, travelling alone?" There is an immense advantage to be possessed by every other growing Power. It is that the acquisitions we make are made for the benefit of the whole world. This accounts for the much more lenient view taken of our annexations than of those of others. But we must not trust to it to far, we may find ourselves confronted by a formidable coalition.

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THE ANATOLIAN PENINSULA.

The Anatolian peninsula, the rivers flow mostly north-westward into the Black Sea, though the courses of not a few of them remain to be explored. The most considerable of these is the Rissi-Irmak (the ancient Halys); though one of the most interesting is the Menderes (ancient Maander), celebrated for its luxuriant valley and winding corners, and for the fact that since Homer sang of it, the action of his current, combined with the action of the sea, has altered the whole aspect of the coast about Basica Bay.

The climate of Asiatic Turkey presents as many variations as account of the great inequalities of its surface that any general view of it is impossible. In one day the traveller may go from the cold of winter to a heat almost tropical, and vice versa. In the Mesopotamian and Bagdad regions, the heat, in summer, even grows too hot. It is quite conceivable that two people should read a given book, and that one should gather results altogether noble and the other results altogether damnable. If it pleases me to travel to Ionia, what hinder? If I have heart and soul to find a sermon in the story of that supreme villain's purposeless malignity, whistling, however eloquent, can preach me such a sermon on it as I can find for myself inwardly? But this brings me to the heart of the whole matter. We do not go to the theatre to be instructed, or preached at. It is not at least our primal intention when we take our seats in stalls or pit to treat ourselves to solitary doses of moral maxim. We go to the theatre to be amused, and it follows as a matter of course that the professional purveyors of amusement strive to supply us with that which best pleases us. It is the chief folly of most who discuss this question that they look upon the stage as a thing altogether apart from the rest of the world. The stage is but a little part of the vast and complicated machinery of our social life.

Every man who goes twice to see a bad piece of art, to build up a false popular taste, and is in his just proportion responsible for the decadence of dramatic art. The social censor who dips below affect and looks at cause will be very apt to regard the stage in a purely absurd fashion, and neither to condemn it nor to praise it. Such praise or condemnation as he has to bestow will fall upon the tragedy which creates and sustains the dramatic productions of its time. The people have it always in their power to reform the stage, but the stage can never have it in its power to reform the people.

public. The very royalst part of our literature is dramatic in its form, and our stage libraries are rich in splendour and in sweetness. But our dramatic literature finds and maintains our stage. One theatref and one actor in London profess the culture of the legitimate drama, but let the public show a desire for Shakespeare, and they will not be long without him. If they ask for Massinger, they will not be left unsatisfied. Ben Jonson lies ready to their hand. The lesser lights of Talfourd and Knowles may burn bright if the public will but bid them. Goldsmith and Sheridan are ready with immortal laughter when a foolish public is sick of bad puns and ditty-inundos, and can smile once more at the swift exchange of wild and humour. Shakspeare gave us but one jewel of wisdom among many when he told that the purpose of playing is to show the very age and body of the time his form and pressure. The stage reflects us truly. It is corrupt and mean in times of public corruption and inanity, and noble when those by whom it lives care to have it so. —*Social Notes*.

THE PHYSIOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE OF TURKEY IN ASIA.

Asiatic Turkey, in its five great divisions of Anatolia or Asia Minor, Armenia, Kurdistan, Mesopotamia, and Syria, may be regarded as a western extension of the great central Asian plateau, with its surface much broken up by mountain chains and isolated ranges. This great plateau narrows very considerably as it approaches the Turkish territory in Asia, but increases in elevation. Here begins the Alpine region of Persia with Kurdistan; here are the lakes Urmia and Van, and the sources of the rivers Tigris, Euphrates, and Euphrates. The tableland is broken up into and replaced by mountain chains which rise to a great height, and by elevated valleys between them. On the northeast of Turkey in Asia both the mountain ranges and the tablelands are unit in the compact mountain range and high-tableland of Armenia, the country to the west resembling Europe in structure, rather than Eastern Asia. Physically there are four divisions of this region, corresponding nearly to the divisions referred to above. The first is the elevated and mountainous tableland of Armenia, which extends in the form of the whole of Turkey in Asia. The *States* will not insult its readers by discussing the probability of Turkish reforms to satisfy European demands. It follows that annexation, sooner or later, is inevitable. But "Perpet" cannot be allowed to break with her barbarous habit of the continuity with the benefice of British rule. She also must, therefore, be absorbed. In other words, the Protectorate, if it means anything at all, means the ultimate absorption into the British Empire of the whole of Turkey in Asia. The *States* will not insult its readers by discussing the probability of Turkish reforms to satisfy European demands. It follows that annexation, sooner or later, is inevitable. But "Perpet" cannot be allowed to break with her barbarous habit of the continuity with the benefice of British rule. She also must, therefore, be absorbed. In other words, the Protectorate, if it means anything at all, means the ultimate absorption into the British Empire of the whole of Turkey in Asia.

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The second great division is formed by the Caucasus; which is beyond the range of our present subject. The third separate mass is formed by the peninsulas of Anatolia, or Asia Minor, in the interior, a tableland of an average height of 3,000 feet, and joined to Persia by the mountain chain of the Taurus. The Syrian mountains form the fourth division, culminating in Mount Libanus and terminating in the isolated mountain mass of Sinai. The whole extent of Turkey in Asia is estimated at 660,000 square miles, and its population variously estimated at from 12 to twenty millions.

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had they approached most closely before uniting, not far above the outlet in the Persian Gulf, giving the included land the shape of an hour-glass. It was this included land which the ancients appropriately named Mesopotamia, the northern half being now known as El Jezirah, or the island, and the southern Iraq, Arab, or the Arab Iraq, to distinguish it from the neighbouring Persia, or Iraq Ajen. The delta of the united streams begins about forty miles above its outlet, and there is evidence that since the time of Alexander the Great the land must have encroached considerably on the Gulf. Living between Mesopotamia and the coast region of Syria, and its southern part, Palestine, is the great Syrian desert, a chalk plateau of about 1,800 feet above the sea, bounded on the west side by a great depression.

The flora of Asiatic Turkey, as might be expected, is very varied, varying as a combination of temperate and sub-tropical character. As to its fauna, the lion has disappeared from the countries west of the Euphrates, while in Mesopotamia are found the hyena, panther, buffalo, and wild boar; jackals, bears, wolves, and wild dogs are met with in Asia Minor. The leopard is still found in the interior of Palestine, the Syrian bear in Lebanon, while European animals are found nearly everywhere. The whole territory is included in the Mediterranean sub-region of the Palaearctic Zoological region. (See Wallace's "Distribution of Animals.")

THE ENGLISH MENACE TO FOREIGNERS.

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